

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 MCT-01 IO-14 TRSE-00 /097 W
-----057684 261813Z /64

R 261215Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0717
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMCONSUL BILBAO
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS BORDEAUX 0080

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, FR, SP
SUBJECT: FRENCH EXPULSION OF A SPANISH BASQUE ACTIVIST

SUMMARY. FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE FRENCH HAVE SUMMARILY RETURNED AN ACCUSED ETA ACTIVIST TO SPANISH AUTHORITIES. THE ACTION WAS REPORTEDLY ACCOMPLISHED SECRETLY, BEFORE THE BASQUE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT HIS REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM. END SUMMARY.

THE BORDEAUX PRESS REPORTS THAT AN INJURED 23 YEAR OLD SPANISH BASQUE ETA MILITANT WAS TAKEN TO THE SPANISH FRONTIER BY FRENCH AUTHORITIES DURING THE NIGHT OF APRIL 19 AND TURNED OVER TO SPANISH AUTHORITIES. THE LAWYER AND THE FATHER OF THE YOUNG SPANIARD HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF HIS EXPULSION UNTIL AFTER IT HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. THE LAWYER WAS PREPARING A REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM AND THE YOUNG SPANIARD'S FATHER WAS DUE TO UNCLASSIFIED

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ARRIVE IN BORDEAUX (WHERE HE WAS HOSPITALIZED UNDER GUARD) ON APRIL 20 IN THIS CONNECTION.

THE SPANISH CONSUL GENERAL IN BORDEAUX HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE SPANIARD'S PRESENCE IN BORDEAUX OR OF HIS EXPULSION UNTIL HE READ OF IT IN THE NEWSPAPER. THE OPERATION WAS APPARENTLY ARRANGED BETWEEN PARIS AND MADRID.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME AN ACCUSED SPANISH BASQUE ACTIVIST HAS BEEN SUMMARILY RETURNED TO SPAIN BY THE FRENCH. THE ACTION, WHICH WAS REPORTEDLY ACCOMPLISHED SECRETLY AND UNDER TIGHT SECURITY HAS BEEN SEVERELY CRITICIZED IN THE LOCAL FRENCH PRESS. PRESS ACCOUNTS SAY THAT THE SPANISH BASQUE, ALDABUR-LARRAGNAGA, HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY BURNED AND INJURED ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 12 - 13 BY THE EXPLOSION OF A CHARGE WHICH HE WAS PLACING IN THE CORRIDORS OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE "ASSOCIATION DEMOCRATIQUE DES ENTREPRISES DU GUIPUZCOA." HE MANAGED TO ESCAPE AND GET TO THE FRENCH FRONTIER AT HENDAYE BY TAXI. THERE HE SNEAKED THROUGH THE UNATTENDED TRUCK LANE OF THE FRONTIER STATION AND WAS MET BY ACCOMPLICES ON THE FRENCH SIDE. BECAUSE OF HIS INJURIES, THE ACCOMPLICES TOOK HIM TO THE HOSPITAL AT SAINT-JEAN-DE-LUZ. FROM THERE HE WAS EVACUATED TO THE HOSPITAL AT BAYONNE AND FINALLY TO THE BURNS PAVILLION OF THE PELLEGRIN HOSPITAL IN BORDEAUX.

LOCAL PRESS CRITICISM OF THIS UNPRECEDENTED OPERATION HAS STRESSED THE HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECT AND HAS ALSO QUESTIONED THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES ACTION IN REMOVING A SERIOUSLY INJURED PERSON FROM THE HOSPITAL. ONE PRESS ARTICLE CONCLUDES, "HAD ONE THE RIGHT TO DELIVER THIS MAN TO SPANISH AUTHORITIES ? SEVERAL RECENT EVENTS HAVE PROVED THAT, TERRORISTS OR NOT, ONE CAN STILL DIE BY TORTURE IN SPANISH PRISONS."

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OTHER INFORMATION ON THIS AFFAIR WILL BE REPORTED BY CLASSIFIED MESSAGE WHEN POUCH AVAILABLE.MARVIN

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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